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LOW FLIGHTS OFF GOLDWATER SAYS

WASHINGTON, March 2 (AP)—Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep.), Arizona, said today he was informed that the United States had suspended low-level reconnaissance flights over Cuba and was using "electronic ear" planes to listen in from outside Cuban territory.

Goldwater, an Air Force reserve major general, said in an interview he was told that the low-level flights were discontinued Feb. 9, three days after Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara's television report on the Cuban military situation.

An informed Government source said this was in error. The source said low-altitude flights were being carried out as the need for them arose and that the high-level U-2 reconnaissance flights were continuing.

Acute Detection Devices.

Goldwater, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the planes were equipped with devices able to register details of what goes on in Cuba down to the point of detecting a generator in operation.

These planes, operated by both the Navy and the Air Force, are flown at moderately high altitudes over international waters and do not pass over Cuba itself.

They are more vulnerable to the low-flying craft to which the aircraft missiles that the Cubans have installed in Cuba. One of these missiles missed and it is

reversed its course to destroy a U-2 in the October crisis.

The low-flying sorties are made at an altitude at which radar is not effective and are gone almost as soon as they are seen. American military leaders think that the Russians are unable to cope with such flights.

In the Feb. 6 report to the nation on Cuba, McNamara said that high-altitude surveillance of Cuba was continuing and that

low-level reconnaissance aircraft were "kept on a 24-hour alert basis for use whenever required."

The Navy said last night that one of its destroyers inspecting a Cuban coastal freighter off Guantanamo tangled an anchor in the freighter's shroud—a guy-wire bracing a mast.

Cuba had charged that the destroyer, the Harold J. Ellison, took photographs for 45 minutes and then deliberately rammed the 73-foot Joven Amalia, which Cuba said was carrying food from Santiago, Chile, to Baracoa on the Cuban coast.

The Navy said the accident happened when the destroyer maneuvered to inspect the freighter. The only damage the Navy mentioned was the parting of the Joven Amalia's shroud.

In other Cuban developments:

A Birmingham, (Ala.) editor said that 18 United States airmen flew strafing missions in the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Albert C. Persons, managing editor of the weekly Birmingham Examiner, said that United States military air support was never intended. He and 21 other Americans were hired to replace inexperienced Cuban air crews, he said. The number was later cut to 18.

Four of the airmen, all from Birmingham, were killed in the invasion attempt.

Defends CIA.

The Central Intelligence Agency, he said, was not to blame for the invasion's failure but "unfortunately, has been forced to accept the scapegoat role in silence."

Persons wrote of his employment:

"We all believed then, and believe now, that the men who engaged us were representatives of the United States Govern-

Investigation of Abduction

Bahamas colonial authorities and the British Navy were making an on-the-scene investigation of charges that Fidel Castro's men trespassed in British territorial waters to kidnap two Americans and 10 Cubans.

Charles Ashmann, Miami (Fla.) lawyer for the captured men, had protested to the Bahamas government that Castro commandos disregarded boundaries to seize men who relied on British sovereignty over the area to protect them from attack from Cuba.

Ashmann said the men were in the islands fishing. He said he had reports that four had been executed.

Eight of the men, Ashmann said, were Cuban fishermen from Miami. He said they were seized by "Cuban commandos on the British island of Elbow Cay, under the mistaken impression that the fishermen were the men who recently invaded Cuba and seized two Cuban attack vessels."

"Actually, affidavits have been given by nine other men, members of anti-Castro organizations in the Miami area, that they are the ones who made invasion of Cuba and seized the two attack boats," Ashmann said.

At Los Angeles Allen W. Dulles said "I think the economy of Cuba will slowly disintegrate, but it's going to take a long while," depending on how much money Russia will put into Cuba.

The former director of the CIA said at a press conference that the problem of Cuba was not one covering the past six months or six years—"It's a 60-year problem."

"How is it that over 60 years the basis of democracy was so thin in Cuba that a bearded maniac—almost—was able to wrest it away from the free world?" he asked.

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